

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4436

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6314

LIMDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJ: PRELIMINARY MFA VIEWS ON RABAT SUMMIT

1. CAREFULLY LABELLING HER COMMENTS ON RABAT SUMMIT AS "PRELIMINARY VIEWS" AND NOT "AN ASSESSMENT", HEAD OF MFA MIDDLE EASTERN DEPARTMENT (VERED) SAID THAT MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT HAD BEEN HUSSEIN'S RENUNCIATION OF FURTHER RESPONSIBILITY FOR WEST BANK, HIS ACCEPTANCE OF PLO AND HIS STATEMENT THAT EAST BANK PALESTINIANS COULD CHOOSE EITHER PALESTINIAN OR JORDANIAN NATIONALITY. AS IS CASE WITH OTHER OBSERVERS, ISRAELIS ARE WAITING FOR MORE INFO TO BE DEVELOPED ABOUT WHAT WENT ON BEHIND SCENES IN REACHING SUMMIT CONCLUSIONS. FOR PRESENT ISRAELIS ASSUME HUSSEIN WILLINGNESS TO AGREE TO ARRANGEMENT THAT LOOKS ALMOST LIKE CUTTING HIS

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OWN THROAT WAS INDUCED BY COMBINATION OF SAUDI MONETARY

INCENTIVES, FEAR OF COMPLETE ISOLATION IN ARAB WORLD AND, POSSIBLY, FEAR THAT HE WOULD BECOME MORE THAN EVER A TARGET FOR PALESTINIAN ASSASSINS. (VERED MENTIONED SIGNIFICANCE OF FACT THAT INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN ASSASSINATION PLOT UNCOVERED IN MOROCCO (BEIRUT 13020) WERE MEMBERS OF FATAH, NOT "REJECTIONIST" FORCES.)

2. FOLLOWING A DISCUSSION OF SADAT'S AND FEISAL'S MOTIVES IN SUPPORTING SUMMIT OUTCOME, VERED REFLECTED ON DIFFICULTIES WHICH APPEAR TO BE INVOLVED IN WORKING OUT PRACTICAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SYRIA, EGYPT, PLO AND JORDAN, EITHER IN MILITARY OR POLITICAL FIELDS. SHE NOTED ARAFAT'S REFUSAL TO MEET HUSSEIN IN AMMAN AND PLO SPOKESMAN'S DEMANDS THAT HUSSEIN AGAIN ACCEPT TERRORIST UNITS IN JORDAN. ISRAELIS, SHE SAID, WILL REGARD ANY HUSSEIN CONCESSION TO PLO IN THIS AREA AS VERY SERIOUS MATTER AND AS AN INDICATOR THAT ATTEMPT IS BEING LAUNCHED TO FORCE ISRAEL INTO ANOTHER WAR. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT MANY ISRAELIS SEE WAR AS INEVITABLE OUTCOME IF PLO MANAGES TO PUSH ITS DEMANDS FROM THEORY TO FACT, VERED SAID THAT ISRAELIS LIVE IN A HOSTILE WORLD AND FELT THIS WAS MORE THAN ADEQUATE REASON FOR ISRAELIS TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF INTENTIONS OF THEIR NEIGHBORS. SHE SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT GOI HAD CAREFULLY NOTED CLAUSE IN RECENTLY-CONCLUDED ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN SYRIA AND IRAQ WHICH CALLS FOR BUILDING RAILROAD EXTENSION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD AVOID NEED FOR TRANSITING TURKEY. SHE SAID TURKEY HAD ON OCCASION IN PAST REFUSED TO PERMIT TRANSIT OF MILITARY PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT.

3. VERED CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT SHE COULD SEE ABSOLUTELY NO SILVER LINING IN MANY CLOUDS ON HORIZON AND PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT TALKS HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY SET BACK. IF SOME OBSERVERS SITTING IN DISTANT PLACES DRAW CONCLUSION FROM RABAT SUMMIT LANGUAGE THAT ARABS HAD ABANDONED FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE OF DESTROYING ISRAEL, THIS WOULD BE ILLUSORY. WHILE RELATIVELY MORE CONSERVATIVE ARABS SUCH AS SADAT AND FEISAL MAY HAVE ASSURED THAT LANGUAGE USED IN COMMUNIQUE AND IN PRESS CONFERENCES DID NOT INCLUDE ENTIRE RANGE OF BLOOD-THIRSTY ARAB THREATS, ISRAELIS WELL KNEW EXACTLY WHAT

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WAS MEANT BY STANDARD ARAB EUPHONISM FOR ELIMINATION OF STATE OF ISRAEL, NAMELY, CREATION OF "DEMOCRATIC STATE IN PALESTINE IN WHICH MOSLEMS, CHRISTIANS AND JEWS CAN LIVE IN BROTHERHOOD WITH EQUAL RIGHTS AND DUTIES."

4. COMMENT: EVEN WITHOUT ADEQUATE INFO TO ASSESS RABAT FULLY, OUTCOME OF CONFERENCE HAS REINFORCED ISRAELI CONVICTIONS THAT ULTIMATE PLO INTENTION IS TO DESTROY ISRAEL AND THAT

ARAB STATES WILL NOT OR CANNOT PREVENT IT FROM DOING SO. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT VERED CHOSE TO FOCUS ON HUSSEIN IN HER REMARKS; INSOFAR AS ISRAELIS HAVE COME TO VIEW HIM AS ONE ARAB THEY COULD HOPE TO COMMUNICATE WITH AT APPROPRIATE TIME, HIS SETBACK AT RABAT IS SEEN AS ESPECIALLY DAMAGING FOR FUTURE PROSPECTS. IN GENERAL, VERED ADEQUATELY REFLECTED WIDELY HELD FEELING HERE IN WAKE OF RABAT--GLOOM AND PESSIMISM ABOUT FUTURE.

KEATING

NOTE BY OC/T: TEL AVIV 6314 NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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